

THE “EYE”

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

JULY-AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 2003

KID SAFETY (Danger of Lures)

Spring and summertime activities are in full swing. Children are everywhere, playing and enjoying the great weather. Sadly, there are individuals who will try to harm that one, unsuspecting child. These individuals who prey upon children are “pedophiles.” To be specific a “pedophile” is a person who has a sexual perversion where children are the focus. Pedophiles are more often known as “child molesters.”

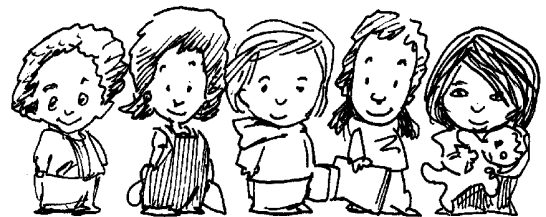
Many Law Enforcement agencies teach “Stranger Danger” to children in various settings. At home, parents also re-enforce “Stranger Danger.” Even with all the teaching, some children are still victimized. How does this happen? The “Stranger” in question can be very unassuming. Children get the picture that an ugly monster is going to come up and do “bad things” to them, when in most cases it’s going to be the “wolf in sheep’s clothing.” There are many different ways that molesters can lure children away and into danger. Here are a few of the “child lures” used by molesters:

- **ASSISTANCE LURE:** This lure appeals to the helpful nature of a child. The molester usually asks for directions, physical assistance, or help with looking for a lost pet. If a child helps the molester using the assistance lure, they might be led to a secluded area where abuse could take place.
- **EMERGENCY LURE:** Molesters use this lure to confuse and alarm a child into making a quick decision. Pedophiles devise a false emergency situation to persuade a child into coming with them without a second thought. They may make up a story such as, “Your mother was in a horrible car accident! She is in the hospital now and your father called me to come pick you up!” In such an urgent situation the child doesn’t question motives or analyze the credibility of the emergency; they are easily convinced to go with the molester.
- **AUTHORITY LURE:** Children are generally taught to respect and obey adults, but a molester, using this lure, will take advantage of a child’s respect and obedience. Some molesters will even go so far as to disguise themselves as police officers, detectives, security guards, or anyone else that may have great authority in the community in order to intimidate children to do as they desire or order.
- **AFFECTION LURE:** Children need and want attention from a trusting adult. If, for some reason, a child feels denied that love and attention in the home, the child might turn to another adult for love and attention. Molesters consider it very easy to manipulate, seduce, and befriend a child because of a child’s need for affection. If a child is not receiving the attention they need at home, an offender will take advantage of that, providing the child, ultimately, with unhealthy and destructive attention.

There are several other types of “lures” that can be used. Those can be referenced at the following website:

www.gasou.edu/~vlander/ChildLures.htm

Take the time to educate yourself about the dangers of “lures” and continually talk with your kids about what they need to do to protect themselves.



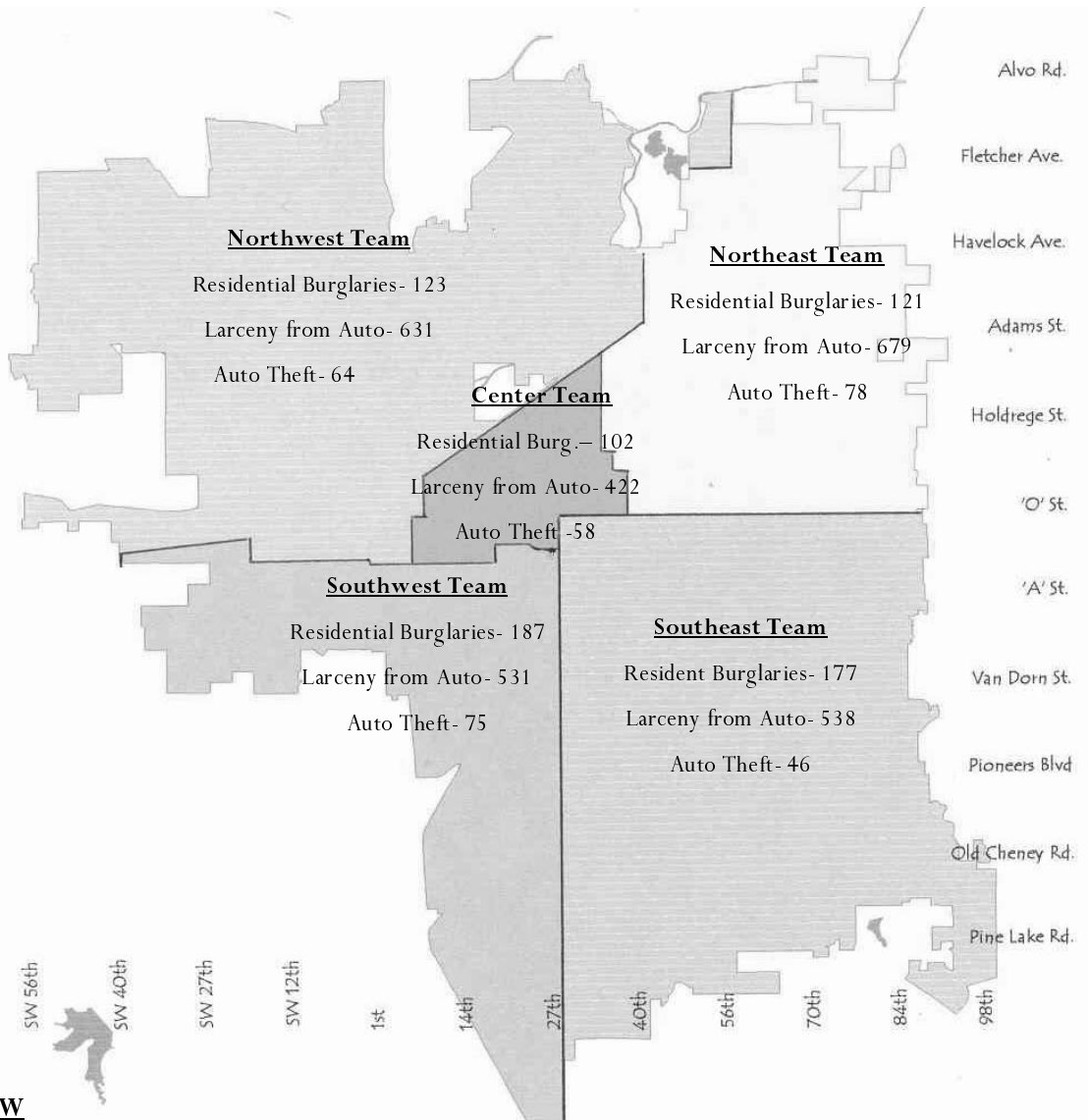
PRE-APPROVED ID THEFT

Many people receive pre-approved credit card applications in the mail. These applications often have personal information already printed on them including your name, address, phone number, and sometimes even a social security number. Most of the time these applications are unsolicited, unwanted and end up in the garbage. Once they are thrown away they could be accessible to thieves who often go through garbage to obtain personal information they can use to steal from bank accounts or credit accounts. If you receive these kinds of offers through the mail make sure that you shred the documents before throwing them away. To put a stop on receiving these pre-approved forms you can use the “OPT-OUT” program. By calling **1-888-567-8688** your name can be removed from the list of major credit bureaus.

SUMMARY OF REPORTED CRIMES between 1-1-2003 and 6-7-2003*For additional information, statistics, or crime maps refer to the LPD web-site at: www.ci.lincoln.ne.us/city/police***GRAFFITI
VANDALISM:**

Spring 2003 saw an increase in the number of graffiti vandalisms. Some of this graffiti appears to be gang related. Right now the cost of property damage due to these vandalisms is at \$5,340. Most of these incidents are occurring on Monday through Friday between the hours of 6 p.m. to 8 a.m. If you observe graffiti or other signs of gang activity please be sure to call the police and report it. Also, if graffiti occurs on your property remove it as soon as possible.

Graffiti is used by gang members to mark and enforce territory. The prompt removal of graffiti has proved to be a deterrent to gangs trying to establish themselves in a specific area because they can't claim "ownership" of that area.

**STATISTICAL OVERVIEW**

Over the past three months, larcenies out of cars have continued to plague each team area. During a four week period in May there were 399 reported larcenies from cars. Eighty vehicles were documented as having been left unlocked or open. The estimated dollar value of theft loss from those unlocked vehicles is \$25,574! Items that people left in their unlocked cars to be stolen included lap-top computers, a TV/VCR, digital cameras, purses, briefcases, checkbooks, prescription drugs, golf clubs, cell phones, binoculars, and stereo equipment. Please don't make it so easy for the criminals.

Burglaries remain consistent and are still occurring most often at residences where garage doors are left open or unlocked. Thefts of sporting equipment, lawn tools, and beer or soda pop are prevalent. Several neighborhood oriented businesses were also burglarized so please remain aware of the activity in your area and call the police when there appears to be suspicious behavior.

TEAM AREA FORUM MEETINGS

Do you want to find out what the police are doing in your team area? Do you have questions to ask or comments to make? If so make sure that you attend the Team Area Forum for your group. Neighborhood Watch Coordinators and Neighborhood Associations will receive another notification by mail. **ALL GROUP MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND!**

- **Northeast Team meeting will be on Tuesday August 19th, 2003, 7 p.m. at Pershing Elementary School Auditorium, 6402 Judson.**
- **Southwest Team meeting will be on Tuesday August 26th, 2003, 7 p.m. at the Bess Dodson Walt Library, 6701 South 14th.**
- **Southeast Team meeting will be on Tuesday September 16th, 2003, 6 p.m. at the Bryan Medical Plaza, 1500 South 48th.**
- **Center Team meeting will be on Tuesday September 16th, 2003, 7 p.m. at the 27th & Holdrege Streets Police Precinct Station.**
- **Northwest Team meeting will be on Wednesday October 8th, 2003, 7 p.m. The location for this meeting will be announced later.**



BURGLARY CLEARED THROUGH OFFICER'S PERSEVERENCE

A woman, who had been out of town, returned to find that her home had been broken into and almost all of her belongings had been stolen. Officer Ben Miller responded to the home and began to investigate what had happened. He developed information through one cooperating individual. Based on that initial information he then used a variety of methods to build other evidence and soon Officer Miller was able to develop four suspects in the case. Having obtained specific information and evidence Officer Miller was able to use search warrants to recover most of the stolen property. When interviewing the suspects, Officer Miller was able to obtain some confessions and enough additional information to arrest all four of them.

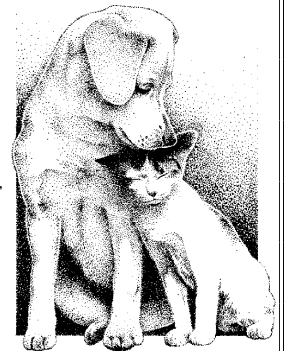
As with most criminal offenses, the aforementioned burglary was only part of other illegal activity. Officer Miller looked beyond the initial offense and found there was evidence related to narcotics and other crimes. Additional felony and misdemeanor arrests on methamphetamine and marijuana related charges were also made.

ANIMAL CONTROL - NEW CITY ORDINANCES

by Kris Johnson Animal Control education officer

Several new and revised ordinances were recommended by the Board of Health along with the Animal Control Advisory Committee and were recently approved by the Lincoln City Council.

- License fees went up to \$30 for unaltered pets with the fee changing to \$25 for unaltered pets owned by citizens age 62 or older. Altered pets went up to \$15.00. The fine for not licensing a pet went up to \$50 (minimum) plus court costs.
- Cat owners who have more than five cats (all cats have to be spayed or neutered) will need a multi-cat household permit. A permit will be required for a Hobby Kennel or Cattery with a maximum of fifteen cats allowed.
- Ferrets will be required to have a rabies vaccination.
- Animal rescue organizations will need to apply for a permit.
- Roosters are prohibited within the city limits.
- Lincoln now has a "Poop Scoop" law which requires owners to dispose of feces on both public and private property.



Bat reminder: It's the time of year when Lincoln's bats become active. If a bat is found on the ground or in your house, call Animal Control at 441-7900 for removal. If you or your pet has contact with the bat, the bat will be tested for rabies.

RABIES REMINDER:

Nebraska continues to see an increase in the number of wildlife testing positive for rabies this year compared to last year. So far, none of these animals have been from Lancaster County. As of June 3, 2003, 62 cases have come back positive with rabies and this is only June. The total for 2002 was 27. Of the 62 positive cases, 48 are skunks, with the most found in Hall County (Grand Island area). The other animals that are positive are: 2 dogs, 2 cats, 5 foxes, 4 cows, and 1 horse. Owners need to make sure their pets are up to date on their rabies vaccinations, including livestock. People are more likely to be exposed to rabies through domestic animals than those in the wild, which is why pets need their rabies shots since they may be more likely to come into contact with wildlife. Rabies outbreaks usually occur in 20 year cycles, which is what happened in Nebraska. In 1980 there were 93, in 1981 there were 198, in 1982 there were 123. Rabies is a viral disease with only mammals being infected and usually is transmitted through saliva; rabies affects the central nervous system which changes the animal's behavior, such as a nocturnal skunk being out at noon. If you see an animal that shows unusual behavior, call Animal Control at 441-7900.

20th ANNUAL NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

Tuesday, August 5th, will mark the 20th annual National Night Out. From 7 to 10 p.m., residents are asked to lock their doors, turn on outside lights and spend the evening outside with their neighbors. Many neighborhoods plan block parties, cookouts, youth activities, and visits from their neighborhood police officers.



National Night Out is designed to: (1) Heighten crime and drug prevention awareness; (2) Generate support for, and participation in, local anticrime efforts; (3) Strengthen neighborhood spirit and police/community partnerships; and (4) Send a message to criminals letting them know neighborhoods are organized and fighting back.

If you would like to have a police officer visit your National Night Out activity call us at 441-7261 to be added to our schedule. Please call our office by Friday, July 25th so that we can plan ahead for this event. We will make every effort to arrange for an officer to stop by - please remember that visits may be restricted by demands on the officer to respond to calls for service.

The "EYE" ***Neighborhood Watch***

LINCOLN POLICE DEPARTMENT
CRIME PREVENTION GROUP
575 SOUTH 10TH ST.
LINCOLN NE, 68508

Return Service Requested



CRIME-FREE DOLLARS: LARCENY FROM AUTO AWARENESS WINNERS

In an effort to reduce the number of larcenies out of vehicles, an awareness program was initiated by the Lincoln Police Department. Statistically, one of the largest groups of persons victimized by this crime are high school age students. The Lincoln public high schools were contacted and the students notified that if they left their cars locked, with all valuables out of sight, they could be eligible for a drawing to win \$50. AAA INSURANCE generously donated enough money so that one student from each public high school could win \$50. After the program was publicized at the schools, officers randomly checked through student parking areas looking for cars that did not leave an opportunity for thieves. License plate numbers of cars that complied were recorded and then placed into a drawing.



L to R: Sgt. Mike Siefkes, AAA Office Manager Marilyn Muir, and AAA Insurance Agent Kim Gonzalez drawing names of the \$50 prize winners.

On May 20th, AAA Insurance Agent Kim Gonzalez drew five winner's names:



- Rosanne Navas Lincoln High School
- Cassidy Tucker Southwest High School
- Ashley Lawrence Northeast High School
- Patrick Spangler East High School
- Robyn Stokke Southeast High School

JULY FOURTH AT OAK LAKE:

PARKING: South lot access is off Sun Valley from West "O". Post event exit will be Sun Valley to West "O".

North lot access will be off 1st just South from Cornhusker. Post event exit will be sent North on 1st to Superior. East & West turns on Cornhusker allowed but I-180 South bound & 11th street will be closed.

East lot is designated for handicap. Access is off of Charleston between Sun Valley & 1st.

Haymarket Park lots are available to Salt Dogs Game Day ticket holders only. Exit from those lots will be either North on Sun Valley or East on Charleston to 10th.

TOW AREAS: Cars parked on the shoulders of 1st, Sun Valley, Cornhusker or I-180 will be towed.

No private fireworks and no alcohol or illegal drugs.

SEE: www.ci.lincoln.ne.us/city